

UNTO THE CHURCH

1 Thess 1:1

Church in Thessalonica planted by Paul on 2nd missionary trip.
Thessalonica on famous Roman military road called Egnatian Way.
Connecting link with Rome.
City predominantly Greeks
Paul's ministry to Thessalonicans:

1. Didn't take money from them.
2. Preached the Gospel.

In Thessalonica approx. 3 weeks.

Paul in Corinth.

Letter written approx. 20 years after ascension...

Purpose: Paul burdened ...many young and immature in Lord.

Deficient in knowledge of Word and Christian experience.

Poor. False teachers.

Concerned that Timothy might not be able to effectively minister.

Timothy finally returned and brought news that lifted Paul's heart.

Letter one of encouragement and building up.

Reasons for letter:

1. Deal with innuendos and accusations
2. Let everyone know how happy he is about good report Timothy had given
3. To teach on topic "*What happens to us when we die.*" Second coming of Christ.
4. To instruct new Christians about living in the light.

1 Th 1:1 Begin with name of one sending the letter. Then, followed by name of person (s) addressed. Then, actual letter.

Paul: responsible for letter. Then, mentions men who helped him

Jewish name--Saul.

Tribe of Benjamin from which came King Saul.

"Asked of God."

Roman name, Paul- "*Little.*"

What Paul look like? "...baldheaded, bow-legged, strongly built, a man small in size, with meeting eyebrows, with a rather large nose, full of grace, for at times he looked like a man and at times he had the face of an angel."

Paul's companions: Silas (Silvanus) and Timothy.

Silvanus: The older of 2. Silvanus and Silas same person.

Silvanus--Roman proper name

Silas--Greek name (Woody)

Luke calls him Silas

Paul calls him Silvanus

Timotheus: youngest...came with missions team half-way through Paul's 2nd missionary journey

From spiritually divided home. Father unsaved and mother saved.

Mother a Jewish spiritual lady.

Timothy and mother Eunice saved on Paul's 1st missionary journey. Timothy taught by mother and grandmother.

Grew in Lord and as young man (late teens) became an outstanding example for Lord.

Timothy was an introvert and timid.

Physical problems (possibly ulcers).

Easily discouraged and intimidated.

Faithful and genuine. Phil 2:20-21

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy. Paul places them on equal level.

Phil 2:3 Look out when begin to think a step above everyone else

Demarest: *If I ever allow myself to think that I am better than you, the possibility of a genuine relationship is gone.*

...unto the church of the Thessalonians

Church: *ekklesia*--a gathering of citizens called out by a herald from their homes into some public place."

- Paul's day--any group of people called together to meet in a public place.
- Classical tradition of ancient Greece--assembly of all citizens of a city to perform their civic rites.
- Earliest Greek translation of OT--assembly or congregation of children of Israel.

Meaning from OT: *any group of people called out to come together to meet with God. God is the one who initiated the meeting and invited all to come.*

Requirements:

1. In Christ. **Which is in God the Father**... personal relationship

Rom. 3:24 Rom. 8:1; 12:5 1 Cor. 1:2 To be a member of the church one must be "in Christ."

2. Baptized.

Acts 2:42 *The church is a company of born-again baptized believers who meet in a specific place who affirm that they are children of God their Father and who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord*

God the Father.

Be careful lest you distort the fatherhood of God into a sexist diversion.

Be faithful to the biblical fact that God is our Father (male).

Lord: Title: Lord, master, boss.

To call Jesus *Lord* means to give to Him absolute authority in our lives.

2-fold emphasis:

1. The authority of the one being called Lord
2. The choice of the one who is calling him Lord.

Lordship: Indicates a relationship of total authority that was chosen by the subject.

Jesus Christ never forces His way in. He only becomes Lord by personal invitation. A free choice. Rev 3:20

Jesus: human name. The real person that we worship and obey.

- ❖ Came to earth to be born of a virgin and lived a sinless life for us.
- ❖ Went to the cross of Calvary and shed His blood to pay in full our sin debt.
- ❖ The Son of God and God the Son who rose bodily from the grave and ascended into Heaven to prepare a place for us.
- ❖ He is the one who is coming again to receive those who are born-again and take them to be with Him forever in a real place called heaven.

Christ: A title designated by God. Greek word for Hebrew *Mashiach*, the promised “*anointed one*” sent by God for redemption of Israel.

Mat 16:16

Lord (master, total authority in my life), *Jesus* (Personal relationship), *Christ* (Messiah, anointed one)

Grace:

BG: *The energizing power and supernatural desire to do the will of God*

MV: *Dynamic force of the living God that enables me ...*

John 1:17 ... but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ

Acts 4:33 Power to witness

Eph.2:8,9 Can't be saved without God's grace

Acts 20:32 *word ... build you up, ... give you an inheritance*

Rom. 5:20 Gives victory over sin

Rom. 12:6 Gives ability to use spiritual gift.

1 Cor.3:10 Enables to actively serve

1 Cor.15:10 Gives strength to serve

2 Cor 9:8 ... *may abound to every good work:*

2 Cor.12:9 Gives strength to go thru trials.

Effective ministry Eph. 3:7

Power and ability to preach Eph. 3:8

Ability to sing Col. 3:16

Be strong in Grace: 2 Tim 2:1

Power in prayer Heb 4:16

Heb 13:9 *a good thing that the heart be established with grace;*
Given to the humble 1 Pet. 5:5 James 4:6

Peace inner calm in the midst of the storm. Unruffled temperament.

Attitude which says, I am completely resting in the Lord for His direction and fulfillment.

Demarest: *Grace points to God, who, in Jesus, is the source of all love and good in our lives. Peace points to the quality of life that grows out of grace. Both are the essence of the Christian lifestyle.*

So What? The letter

1. How do you deal with innuendos and accusations?
2. How to respond to a good report.
3. What happens to us when we die. What know about Second coming of Christ.?
4. What know about living in the light?
5. What do you say to a young and immature believer?

Lord—Is He master? Is He the total authority in my life?

Jesus--Personal relationship—do I have a personal relationship with Him?

Christ--Messiah, anointed one

Grace: BG: *The energizing power and supernatural desire to do the will of God*

Am I experiencing grace?

How get it? Humble myself...be clothed in humility